

Remarks

Currently pending are claims 1-5 and 7-11. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration by the Examiner, and advancement of the application to allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lai et al. (WO 00/43455). Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 6 rendering this rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai et al. (US 5,393,307). Applicants traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Applicants presently claimed invention is directed to a dye mixture comprising the dyes of formula (1) and (2a), an aqueous ink comprising the dye mixture and to methods of dyeing or printing fibre materials using the dye mixture.

In comparison, Lai et al. disclose a reactive dye mixture containing a) a black or navy reactive dye; b) a red, orange, yellow or other shade of reactive azo dye; and optionally c) another black reactive dye. Lai et al. teach it is this combination of dyes which provides dyeings having good color fastness to laundering-oxidative bleach.

As noted by the Examiner, Lai et al. does not disclose Applicants dye of formula (2a). Moreover, each of the dyes specifically disclosed in Lai et al., and in particular, the dyes of formula (III-1) to (III-19) and (IV-1) – (IV-7) are distinguished from Applicants

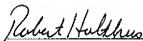
dyes of formula (2a) by more than two features. Thus, Lai et al. neither teach nor provides any suggestions that would allow one skilled in the art to modify Lai et al.'s dyes and arrive at the claimed dye of formula (2a). Nor does Lai et al. teach or suggest combining Applicants dye of formula (2a) with Applicants dye of formula (1) as presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection in view of Lai et al. be withdrawn.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-5 and 7-11 as being unpatentable over Schwarz et al. (US 5,393,307). Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 6 and respectfully submit this rejection is moot.

Should any fee be due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to deduct said fee from Huntsman Corporation Deposit Account No. 08-3442.

Respectfully Submitted,

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